

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 were in the application as examined.

5 Claims 1, 2, 5-7, 9, and 12 stand rejected for various reasons. While applicants, respectfully disagree with the reasons for rejection, these claims have been withdrawn from the present application and will be submitted instead in a continuing application.

 Claims 3, 4, 8, 10, and 11 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if they were rewritten in independent form
10 to include all limitations of their respective base claim and all claims from which they depend.

 Applicants have amended claims 3, 4, 8, 10, and 11 to comply with Examiner's requirement, though it is noted that these amendments are as to form only. That is, the substantive limitations of each of these claims is precisely the same as when filed – only
15 the recitation of claim limitations in the respective base and intervening claims from which these claims originally depended has been made express, rather than being incorporated by reference.

Conclusion

 For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 3, 4, 8, 10 and
20 11, as presently amended, overcome or avoid all bases for rejection or objection and are allowable. It is requested that all claims remaining in the application be further examined, found allowable and passed to issue.

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Respectfully,

M. Koptiw

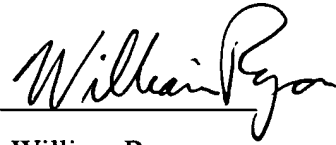
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Date:

5/7/04

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